

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY
SPECIAL BRIEFING REGARDING HAITI
PENTAGON
SEPTEMBER 15, 1994

STAFF: Good afternoon and thank you for coming. Apologize for being a little late. Dr. Perry is actually in the middle of meetings with the minister of defense from Japan, but he did ask to come down and make an announcement to you all this afternoon and he'll have to leave very shortly, but we'll take a few questions after his announcement.

With that, Dr. Perry.

SEC. PERRY: President Clinton today authorized me to call to active duty about 1,600 -- that's about one thousand six hundred -- members of the selected Reserve in order to support the operational missions we are undertaking to restore the civilian government in Haiti.

The president took this action at the request of General Shalikashvili and myself. Included in the call-up are members of the Coast Guard Reserve being called up by the secretary of Transportation. The need for the call-up was planned in what we call our Total Force Policy, which assigns a number of key missions completely or largely to the Reserves, which mean that anytime we're conducting a significant operation we will be going to the Reserves to round out our forces.

The call-up is for units which back-fill active units. The call-up does not include general purpose combat troops. It includes Reservists in specialties of tactical airlift, aerial port operations, military police, medical support and civil affairs. The precise number of personnel who will be involuntarily called at this time will depend on the number of volunteers we have. So far the voluntary response has been outstanding, but because some categories of personnel are only or are largely found in the Reserves, we will need to also call some involuntarily. We anticipate calling up about 1,600 people at this time, but that number could be reduced if we have many more volunteers. Additional personnel would be needed for any follow-on operations, and I anticipate there could be additional call-ups later.

Examples of the people that will be called are civil affairs personnel -- and I mention parenthetically about 97 percent of our civil affairs personnel are in the Reserves -- medical personnel, who will be used to back-fill units that are deployed -- these are active-duty personnel already being deployed -- tactical airlift, where 50 percent of capability is in the reserves -- indeed, we cannot conduct operations involving significant numbers of personnel and amounts of equipment being moved without using the Reserves; and we also need to call some military police and Coast Guard security personnel.

Now, with that announcement, I have time to take a few questions and I'd be happy to try them.

Charlie?

Q: Dr. Perry, could we ask when the growing force off Haiti will be prepared to launch a military attack? And have the military leaders of Haiti given any indication that they're prepared to leave voluntarily?

SEC. PERRY: I can't answer the first part of that question without discussing our operational planning, which I cannot and will not do. I will say that in general the answer to that is soon. The -- on the second question, the indication by Cedras, we have had some number of reports from Haiti indicating a fair amount of turmoil in the ruling regime there, among individuals in the ruling regime. I wouldn't want to try to interpret the significance of those reports.

Mark?

Q: Mr. Secretary, in your mind, if U.S. forces are deployed in Haiti, do you consider in your mind that a police action or an act of war?

SEC. PERRY: That depends very much on how we have to go into Haiti. We have put together an operational plan which assumes that we'll have to make a forced entry into Haiti. As the military regime in Haiti look at that plan and see the force assembling, it will surely become more and more clear to them that their best alternative is to lead -- to leave and to not try to resist this force. If we go in on a permissive or semi-permissive environment instead of a forceful environment, then one of the major activities of the -- that will be involved there will be establishing police forces and unit. This will be not primarily an activity of the U.S. military. The U.S. military will be there to provide backup in case the police force lose control.

Q: Mr. Secretary, many have been making jokes this morning at the Pentagon's expense because of the running aground of a U.S. warship in the bay at Port-au-Prince. Does that in any way indicate the

readiness of U.S. forces to launch this action?

SEC. PERRY: Janie (?), I was down yesterday and boarded the Eisenhower and the Mount Whitney, which are two of the primary vessels that would be involved in this operation, met with the commanders, talked with the troops there. I can tell you two things from that. First of all, they believe they are ready, and secondly, I believe they are ready. This plan was put together several months ago. They've been training, rehearsing to this plan. They are in a high state of readiness.

Q: We are told that there has been an offer on the table for some time to General Cedras and his assistants to get out of town with what is tantamount to a bag full of money and safe passage. I just wanted to make sure we understood you correctly. Up to this moment, has there been any kind of indication at all one way or the other from Cedras?

SEC. PERRY: I don't want to affirm the first part of your statement that there has been such discussions. We have -- our communications with Cedras have been forceful but indirect. We are making it as clear as we know how to make that his best alternative is to leave the island. Secretary Christopher stated the other day that we would be willing to provide safe passage, and I don't have anything to add to or elaborate on what the secretary said in that regard.

Ed?

Q: Mr. Secretary, there's a great deal of opposition both among the American people and in Congress to any invasion. Does that affect military morale or concern -- does that concern you at all in preparing for this invasion?

SEC. PERRY: As I said, Ed, I talked with the, both the commanders and several thousand of our troops that are on the way to Haiti right now. I detected not only a high state of readiness but a high state -- a high morale. The -- I hope that invasion will not be necessary, I hope that simply the preparation for this invasion will cause the -- will focus the attention -- will focus the thinking of the military regime there on what the clear alternatives are.

I don't have direct access to what they are thinking, but I would believe that they have doubted our seriousness or resolve during the last few weeks. As each day goes by and our preparations increase and our ships start moving towards Haiti I think it becomes harder and harder for them to doubt our resolve. Therefore I think we have every reason to hope that we will not have to make this invasion, that they will understand that their better

alternative is to leave.

Q Mr. Secretary, just a follow-up sir. Does that opposition in Congress contribute to the problem that you think you've encountered in trying to convince the military rulers in Haiti that they ought to step aside? That we're not bluffing?

SEC. PERRY: I just cannot speculate on what's in the mind of their leaders. It is clear that they have doubted our resolve in the early weeks. I think it is also clear they're not be going to be able to doubt that resolve very much longer.

STAFF: Last question.

Q: Mr. Secretary, given the state and size of Haiti's uniformed armed forces it's been assumed all around that organized resistance would be over rather quickly, but that a greater danger might appear over a longer run from terrorist style attacks on American and multinational forces. Can you tell us to what degree preparations for these operations have focused on that?

SEC. PERRY: I, first of all, do not want to minimize the risk that would be involved in a forcible entry. The Haitian army consists of perhaps 7,000 people. They have a militia, which has been variously estimated to be 20,000 or 30,000 people. These are armed, some of them are armed well, and so if any percentage, any significant percentage of those choose to resist, there could be some casualties on both sides. We don't have a good way of estimating the extent to which the Haitian army and their militia will resist as opposed to putting down their arms. We would hope that they would put down their arms. But because of that, because of the possibility of casualties here, we continue to emphasize the importance of getting the message through to the ruling regime there that they should capitulate at this point to save -- to eliminate that risk of casualties that would otherwise occur.

So I do not want to take at all lightly the possibility of casualties in any forced entry, which is why we're seeking -- why we're seeking to avoid that if it is at all possible.

Thank you very much.

MR. BOXX: A couple of -- or actually just one administrative note. Two announcements for you this week on submarines. The first is the christening ceremony for the Navy Los Angeles Class Attack Submarine Greenville (sp). The ceremony will be held at Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, Newport News, Virginia on this coming Saturday, September 17th at 11:00 a.m. Tipper Gore, wife of the vice president, will be the ship's sponsor. Prior to the

ceremony, Mrs. Gore will speak at a 9:00 a.m. meeting of the Tidewater Ombudsman Assembly at the Chamberlain Hotel in Hampton, Virginia.

The second announcement is the commissioning of the Navy's Los Angeles Attack Submarine Charlotte (sp). This ceremony will be held tomorrow at Pier 21 in Norfolk starting at 11:00 a.m. Debra P. Christie, assistant secretary of the Navy for Financial Management will be the ceremony's principal speaker.

And with that, I'll try to take some more questions.

Q: Two quick questions. Number one, has the Mount Whitney left yet? She was scheduled to leave at 1:00. Do you know whether she's left?

MR. BOXX: I do not know. She was scheduled to leave at 1:00. I'm not sure if she's on schedule.

Q: And two, have you got any indication at all yet on the cost of this operation so far, this Haiti operation, any ballpark figure?

MR. BOXX: No. The -- we are assessing the potential costs of any activities that we are involved in in Haiti. The exact figure, frankly, is going to depend on a number of variables, such as the exact size of the force, the length of time we stay in Haiti. So at this point we aren't --

Q: It certainly is costing a lot of money so far, is it not, over and above your normal --

MR. BOXX: The amount of money will be significant, as Dr. Deutch said. It will probably require us to seek a supplemental, but we don't have a firm fix yet.

Q: Dennis, going back to the reserve thing for a moment if I may, I'm a little confused: 1,600 reserves total, or 1,600 being called up? And if the latter is true, what's the total number of reservists being pressed into service?

MR. BOXX: Sixteen hundred -- the executive order authorizes up to 1,600 to be called up. We can probably achieve most, hopefully, if not all of that number through volunteers. The total number would be about 1,600.

Q: How long will you wait before you begin involuntary call-up?

MR. BOXX: I think that will be probably left to ACOM (sp). I'm not sure what timetable they have. The numbers are going very quickly and very well right now, so --

Q: How many volunteers have you got so far; can you tell us?

MR. BOXX: No, that's really a moving target. The last number I heard changed quickly, so I'd rather not get a number. We'll -- I'll take the question and see what the current number is, and

we'll try to --

Q: (Off mike) -- the last number.

MR. BOXX: Pardon me? I'll take the question.

Q: How long is the call-up for? Six months? A year?

MR. BOXX: I'm not sure if there's a termination date to it.

STAFF: (Off mike.)

MR. BOXX: Ninety days, I'm told.

Q: Is there an end date for the mission? The administration and the Pentagon are often criticized for not saying how long an operation is going to go on, such as Somalia and the like. Do you have an end date for this mission?

MR. BOXX: We don't have an end date. We have a strategy that will allow us to turn the multinational effort over to the U.N. mission in Haiti, which will be there for a number of months into next year, I'm sure, into the next election of the democratic government in Haiti. So we don't have a timetable for that. We would hope it would move quickly. It will depend a lot on what's happening on the ground.

Q: Do you have a name for this operation yet?

MR. BOXX: Not that I'm aware of. And if we do, it's more than likely something I can't use.

Q: What is the operational need to bring in U.S. ships so close to the shores of Haiti? Are you still trying to kind of scare the coup leaders from the island, or is there an operational need to bring ships in so close?

MR. BOXX: I don't think I want to get into the operational tactics. Let's just say that any by-products of operations that send a strong signal that we are serious about our intent is a by-product that we are pleased with.

Q: Well, what kind of signal did it send this morning when the coastal patrol craft got stuck in the --

Q: Yeah; can we have some details on that, too?

MR. BOXX: I don't have much on it. I know that the Monsoon is aground, it's a cyclone class coastal patrol ship, and I really don't have much beyond that.

Q: Again, would you admit that that's a public relations black eye?

MR. BOXX: No, I wouldn't admit that, Jamie. (Laughter.)

Bill?

Q: Dennis, to the issue of U.S. citizens and other foreign nationals and their safety, what can you tell us of planning to secure and protect them either before or after the invasion begins? And are we going to protect the foreign nationals as well? Will

there be a withdrawal of any of these people before we actually go on shore?

MR. BOXX: I don't want to get into the tactics of what we're going to do. I will say that we have carefully looked at our plans. We will take every consideration to protect the people of Haiti, both the citizens of Haiti and other foreign nationals that are there, and that we'll try to do this in a quick and effective way.

Q: Can you update us, just some round numbers on how many -- again, how many U.S. embassy or diplomatic personnel are there, how many U.S. nationals are there, how many with dual-citizen, just in round numbers.

MR. BOXX: In round numbers, there's between 3,000 and 3,500 Americans in Haiti.

Q: Will there be a U.N. command established down there to impose a police force operation?

MR. BOXX: There are two phases to this, Pat. The first phase is a multinational phase. The U.S. will be principally involved with that; they'll be the ones that will go in initially should the president make the decision to do that. That will be a multinational force that will provide some stability to the region, and that will be under U.S. command.

Q: But eventually will the U.N. --

MR. BOXX: The next phase of that is the U.N. Mission in Haiti, and that will be a U.N. mission and I'm, frankly, at this point not certain who will be in command of that.

Q: Dennis, how many of those 3,500 people are embassy people and government workers?

MR. BOXX: I don't know. The State Department I think has those broken out, Charlie. I don't have those.

Q: Dennis, theoretically, if the invasion begins and Cedras suddenly says, "Whoa, I want to get out of here," is that too late for him to leave? I mean, how late is too late for him to get out without risk of being captured?

MR. BOXX: Mr. Cedras knows exactly what he needs to do and that is to step down, and there's no -- there's no question about whether he knows what to do and when.

Q: If Mr. Cedras does step down, how soon after that would U.S. troops enter Haiti? Would it be a matter of hours?

MR. BOXX: Again, I don't think I want to get into the operational aspects of something like that, Jamie. I think some of these things are left better unsaid.

Q: But you've made pretty clear that -- actually Strobe Talbott made pretty clear that you'll expect some kind of chaos when this happens. Certainly

you want to move quickly.

MR. BOXX: That's a reasonable assumption.

Q: Within a matter of hours?

MR. BOXX: I won't put a time frame on it.

Q: Dennis, we do know that some aircraft dropped leaflets on Port-au-Prince and perhaps elsewhere. The Cedras government says that Navy Seals and other special forces have been ashore scouting terrain, et cetera et cetera. Can you comment on any of that?

MR. BOXX: I'm not going to comment on the tactical operations, no.

Mark?

Q: Has the military briefed President Aristide on this plan, and when was the last time Secretary Perry met with Aristide and what were the circumstances of that meeting?

MR. BOXX: Mark, I'm not sure when Dr. Perry last met with Father Aristide -- President Aristide. There have been steady and constant communications with President Aristide. And whether or not he's been briefed on the precise level of detail of the plan, I can't answer the question; I don't know.

Q: Well, can you take that question and then find out what date Perry met last with Aristide?

MR. BOXX: I'll take it, yeah.

Q: Given the fact that we're getting pretty close to D-Day or whatever you want to call it, have we got -- has the United States got a plane standing by at the airport to carry Cedras out if he has to be carried out? Could it be done very quickly?

MR. BOXX: The secretary of state, I think, made it very clear that if Mr. Cedras wants assistance in leaving the country we'll be willing to provide that.

Q: Is the military standing by to do that?

MR. BOXX: (One ?) would be available to provide assistance to Mr. Cedras if he needs to leave the country.

Q: And to follow, Dennis, can you speak about any plans to commando-style go in, a priori, invasion and capture the junta? Could they expect some callers in the night?

MR. BOXX: Bill, I'm not going to -- I'm not going to get into the operational details, a priori or otherwise.

Q: I understand.

Q: Are there -- is there a short --

Q: The cargo ships and the ready reserve fleet, there was a -- in Desert Storm there was a big delay in a lot of those. The ships, the 13 or so that were mobilized last week, were on a four-day notice. Do you have a readout as to how that

worked? I mean, did it work?

MR. BOXX: My understanding is it worked quite well. The ships, as you know, many of them are being, have been loaded and are being loaded. I have no indication that there were was a problem at all.

Q: Have you been able to recruit --

MR. BOXX: All the way to the back. I'm sorry.

Q: On the question of the return of Mr. Aristide to power, do you feel that that could occur without U.S. and U.N. military presence, or is it the fact that no matter what, a U.S. presence would be required for an orderly return of Mr. Aristide to power in Haiti?

MR. BOXX: I think we've made it very clear that regardless of the circumstances, whether Mr. Cedras and company leave voluntarily or otherwise, there will be a multinational force there to provide stability for the return of the duly-elected government.

Q: Could you give us an update on the training of the COCOM -- Caricom forces at Roosevelt Road?

MR. BOXX: We've got 10 nations now that have signed up to the Caricom force. That's specifically to the Caricom force. As you know, there are now 19 nations that have signed up total in the multinational force. The Caricom training is an element of that. About 300 people, I believe, are involved or will be involved in the training, and it is underway as we speak.

Q: But only seven Caricom nations have military forces. Are you talking about police, too?

MR. BOXX: These are a variety of resources and assets that these countries have indicated a willingness to provide.

Q: That training just got underway, and as it was described to us initially, there are three five-day blocks of training, which would put -- even if they went without any breaks for the next several weeks, it will take them at least two weeks to finish. Is that correct? None of these troops are going to be ready for at least two weeks?

MR. BOXX: No, Jack. I think we'll make assessments as we move along in the process, and if there is the belief that the individuals that are currently in progress in training can be deployed early, we can do that. I think the training program itself is flexible. It'll depend on the requirement, and we're not tied to a timetable for graduating a block of students.

Q: One of those requirements may be, if there is an invasion and you suddenly discover we need these guys, their training ceases, right? And you

bring them in?

MR. BOXX: That's a possibility, but I would remind you that these are not people that would be in the first wave. They would be in the first phase, later on in the phase. So there is not a requirement of a need to have them ready to go right away. This would be a follow-on.

Q: The first 10 days there is a need, according to the plan that was laid out by Secretary Deutch. You want them in sometime before the first 10 days.

MR. BOXX: I think the 10 -- you're correct in the 10-day statement. That is a working figure. That is not anything that we're locked into. We would ideally like to see it sooner than that. It could be longer than that. We're not tied to the 10-day frame.

Q: Dennis, including the two carriers and the Mt. Whitney, how many ships now are going to be in Haitian waters by "X-Hour" or whatever?

MR. BOXX: Let me just say that we've got more than 20 ships in the region, but I'm not going to get into the specifics of where they are --

Q: All U.S.?

MR. BOXX: Yes.

Q: Okay.

MR. BOXX: Yes?

Q: Given the expected presence in Haiti for some period of time -- first initially of the bulk of U.S. forces and then and then the multinational force -- to what degree will Aristide be able to exercise authority within his own country after he returns? That is to say, he won't be deciding what U.S. troops do or don't do in his country, will he?

MR. BOXX: The objective is to turn authority over to the duly-elected government. That's what this is all about. As soon as we can do that, as soon as President Aristide can get into place, begin to exercise authority over his government, that is our desire, and that would be the optimum that we would try to achieve.

Q: How are you fixed for Creole language translators? And will any of these reservists be called up in that specialty? And if not, how will you -- what will you do for translators? Do you have enough now? Do you need more? Are you looking for more? Are you hiring --

MR. BOXX: I expect that some of the civil affairs people probably have language skills. We are also talking to Haitians in the Guantanamo Bay camps for the possible assistance in translator/liaison kinds of functions early on.

Q: How about police functions?

MR. BOXX: Possibly down the road, but the

initial focus of that would be to provide translation and liaison functions to the multinational force. So we are looking at expanding our ability a little bit in the language skills.

Q: Other than the Haitians at Guantanamo, though, are you hiring any other contract people or looking anyplace else?

MR. BOXX: I'm not sure. I'll take it.

Q: (Off mike) -- Haitians on Guantanamo for the most part are not interested in going back to Haiti, saying even with the United States there, the conditions will not be as good as where they are now. Have you had anybody that's come forward on Guantanamo to offer volunteer services?

MR. BOXX: Our belief is that we will in fact see significant numbers of Haitians in Guantanamo Bay desire and in fact return to Haiti. Part of their reason for leaving was the repressive government that's there now, and when that is no longer in place, we would expect to see significant numbers of them return.

Q: To follow up, though, how about on the area of volunteers that you were speaking of? Have you had any volunteers that have committed at this point?

MR. BOXX: Are you talking about for the --

Q: To help out --

Q: The liaison.

Q: The liaison type.

MR. BOXX: I think we have. We are recruiting those. I don't have numbers, but we have had a very positive response to that.

Mark?

Q Will military personnel receive hazardous duty pay for this operation?

MR. BOXX: I'm not sure, Mark. I'll take it.

Q: Dennis, could you elaborate further regarding the first wave of the first phase? Specifically, will there be foreign or other than -- troops other than United States military personnel involved? Can you tell us what numbers and what country, in the first place?

MR. BOXX: The initial wave will be essentially U.S. personnel, and I'm not going to really go beyond that at this point.

Q: Thank you.

MR. BOXX: Thank you.

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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY
QUOTED IN THE MEDIA REGARDING HAITI
SEPTEMBER 15, 1994

CBS-TV Program, "CBS Evening News," September 15, 1994

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DAN RATHER: Here in Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti, there is the calm before the still-building storm. Haiti's current rulers are standing their ground. They refuse to budge in the face of an overwhelming U.S. military threat.

Just a short time ago, I talked with Haiti's ranking military officer, General Raoul Cedras, who remains absolutely defiant and saying things such as, "I can not and will not be bought out."

We are preparing that interview, which happened just a few minutes ago, as we're on the air. We'll bring you portions of it a little later on.

But first, the U.S. invasion force is still building out there off the Haitian coast, in plain view, ready to strike within days, if not hours.

CBS News national security correspondent David Martin, at the Pentagon, begins our coverage.

DAVID MARTIN: The USS Mount Whitney, command ship for the planned invasion of Haiti, got under way today. It could be off Haiti by Sunday to take charge of a 20-ship armada that includes two aircraft carriers loaded with Army troops and helicopters. Behind them, thousands more combat troops marshaling at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and at military bases throughout the Southeastern U.S. It is an overwhelming force designed to strike about 20 targets simultaneously, but Defense Secretary Perry warned Haiti's army and civilian militia could still put up a fight.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM PERRY: These are armed. Some of them are armed well. And so if any percentage, any significant percentage of those choose to resist, there could be some casualties on both sides.

MARTIN: An invasion force of 20,000 will require massive airlift. Some of the planes could be seen gathering today in Florida. To help handle it all, President Clinton authorized a call-up 1600 reservists. A plan for war and an exercise in intimidation.

SECRETARY PERRY: As the military regime in Haiti look at that plan and see the force assembling, it will surely become more and more

clear to them that their best alternative is to leave and to not try to resist.

MARTIN: But for now the Haitians are fortifying their meager defenses, planting concrete barriers at the international airport. And today the Pentagon's gunboat diplomacy suffered an embarrassing gaffe when a U.S. Navy ship ran aground just off Port-au-Prince.

Pentagon officials say there are signs of friction inside the junta, with Police Chief Francois arguing that if they don't leave soon, Haiti will be destroyed. The Clinton Administration has put out feelers offering the generals a life of ease in exile, but so far there are no takers.

David Martin, CBS News, the Pentagon.

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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY
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ABC-TV Program, "ABC World News Tonight," September 15, 1994

PETER JENNINGS: We begin tonight with the turmoil that the prospect of an American military invasion of Haiti is now causing in Washington as well as Haiti. In a little while President Clinton will tell the generals in Haiti, and they'll be watching on television, "Your time is up. Leave now or we will force you from power." Speaking from the Oval Office tonight, Mr. Clinton will also be trying to convince as many Americans as he can that despite a great deal of opposition in the country, especially in Congress and in his own political party, the President feels he no longer has any choice.

First we go to the White House. Here's ABC's Brit Hume.

BRIT HUME: The President today allowed himself to be photographed conferring with his National Security Adviser, the first public glimpse of his consultations on Haiti since the current crisis arose. Senior aides describe Mr. Clinton as still extremely reluctant to order the invasion and still looking for some last-minute way to get the Haitian generals to leave on their own. From top aides today came indications of renewed hope that there have been at least some signs the generals might be considering doing just that.

SECRETARY PERRY: I think it becomes harder and harder for them to doubt our resolve. Therefore I think there's every reason to hope that we will not have to make this invasion, that they will understand that their better alternative is to leave.

JENNINGS: President Clinton will tell the nation tonight that he has exhausted the diplomacy, and so presumably Haitians will not have to wait much longer before the U.S. arrives to change their political landscape for them. The President is certainly making sure the U.S. has overwhelming military superiority.

Here's ABC's John McWethy.

JOHN MCWETHY: The Mount Whitney was the last ship to leave, heading for Haiti. From the high-technology war room of this command vessel, the generals and admirals will run the invasion.

At the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Perry said the troops are at a high state of readiness but admitted no one knows how much opposition they will face from the 7000-man army or the 20,000 people in the Haitian militia.

SECRETARY PERRY: These are armed. Some of them are armed well. And so if any percentage, any significant percentage of those choose to resist, there could be some casualties on both sides.

MCWETHY: Perry announced that the President was calling up reserves, 1600 this time, to fill in holes in such specialties as military police, civil affairs, medical units and air crews for transports.

SECRETARY PERRY: Additional personnel would be needed for any follow-on operations, and I anticipate there could be additional call-ups later.

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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY
QUOTED IN THE MEDIA ON HAITI
SEPTEMBER 15, 1994

NBC-TV Program, "NBC Nightly News," September 15, 1994

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MITCHELL: Aides say that Mr. Clinton will not issue a public deadline for Haiti's leaders to leave, but NBC News has learned that he will likely send an emissary after the speech to give them a final warning before ordering the invasion. NBC News has also learned that coup leader Raoul Cedras has offered within the last 48 hours to give up power, but on terms unacceptable to the White House.

Using Jamaica's former leader Edward Seaga as a go-between, Cedras demanded that the U.S. recognize Haiti's de facto government. He also promised to call new elections right away but said current President Aristide could not run. And he insisted that he be allowed to stay in Haiti.

The President will announce tonight that Aristide will only serve out his current term and not run for reelection.

Meanwhile, U.S. intelligence is all but convinced that once the invasion starts, Haiti's leaders will cut and run.

SECRETARY PERRY: We have had some number of reports from Haiti indicating a fair amount of turmoil in the ruling regime there.

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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY
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CNN-TV Program, "The World Today," September 15, 1994

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JUDY WOODRUFF: The Pentagon is marshaling its forces in preparation for a possible invasion. CNN's Jamie McIntyre has been tracking these military developments.

Jamie, how long until the military is ready to launch an invasion? We've got another aircraft carrier moving toward the Haitian waters. What are you being told by your sources?

JAMIE MCINTYRE: Well, Judy, sources tell CNN that the U.S. military will be ready to invade Haiti within two days. Defense Secretary William Perry says the troops have been practicing the Haiti invasion for months and they are nearly ready to go.

With the command ship Mount Whitney steaming out of Norfolk, sources say by Saturday an armada of 20 warships will be off the coast of Haiti and that an invasion could come anytime after that.

The Pentagon announced one final piece of the invasion plan: call-up of some 1600 reservists in specialties like air traffic control, transportation management and military police.

Sources say an invasion is imminent but not inevitable.

SECRETARY PERRY: As each day goes by and our preparations increase and our ships start moving towards Haiti, I think it becomes harder and harder for them to doubt our resolve. Therefore I think there's every reason to hope that we will not have to make this invasion.

MCINTYRE: Perry says the Pentagon is detecting a fair amount of turmoil in the ruling military regime, but sources say privately that the Pentagon is baffled that Haiti's Raoul Cedras isn't responding to the U.S. threat. One source says Cedras has even dictated what words should be read

at his funeral, signaling he'll stick to the end.

In the Gulf War, Saddam Hussein took a similar defiant stand in the face of overwhelming force, but he had an army to back him up. Haiti's ragtag defense forces, 7000 troops and more than 20,000 armed militia, are no match for U.S. troops but could inflict casualties.

SECRETARY PERRY: If any percentage, any significant percentage of those choose to resist, there could be some casualties on both sides.

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